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PROFESSOR GALLY'S AUTOPHONE—DESCRIPTION, PAGE 148.

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EDWARD H. WALES.

CONTENTS, July 1, 1879.

Prof. Gally's Autophony.....	145, 148
Editorial Announcements.....	146
Rapid Transit in a New Phase.....	146
American Commerce and Manufactures ..	146
Nerve Stretching.....	146
Drying Processes and Patents Relating Thereto; No. 9.	146
Mechanical Drying.....	146
Proposed New English Patent Law.....	147
Singular Cause of Death.....	147
Perpetual Motion.....	147
Fish Protection in the Manufacture and Uses of Wire	147
Rope and Toleodynamic Transmission, IV.....	147
The National Steam-Pump.....	149
Donaldson's Milk Receiver.....	149
Bessemer Steel.....	150
The Inflexible Self-Setting Cast Extremator.....	150
Rolling Mill of the Future.....	151
Restoring the Apparently Drowned.....	151
Refrigerating a 1,500-Ton Iron Ship.....	151
American Sausage.....	151
Book Notices.....	151
Shop and House Hints.....	151, 152
Lists of Patents.....	147

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THE chief reasons why our patent business has grown up to such importance are that, united to a long experience in the business, we devote very careful attention to the study and preparation of our cases. In addition to this care and study, we do not abandon the interest of our clients after their applications are filed in the Patent Office. We have the advantage of the best service at Washington to look after all the requirements of the Commissioner.

Rapid Transit in a New Phase.

In the month of April, acting in pursuance of law, Mayor Cooper appointed a Commission, composed of Henry G. Stickins, Henry F. Spaulding, Benjamin G. Arnold, Lewis G. Morris and Samuel K. Filley, to designate, lay out and extend rapid transit railways in the recently annexed district—which lies above Harlem River. With two exceptions, the Commissioners all reside in the upper district, and it was understood that the scheme to be proposed was intended to secure the extension of the new system through that portion of the city. Imagine, therefore, the surprise of our citizens when they saw in the report of the Commissioners appointed, that without any public notice of such intention, they had actually designated another rapid transit road, to run through the very heart of the city, commencing at a point on the northerly side of Forty-second Street, below the grade of said street; thence under, through and across Forty-second Street; and thence southerly under, through and along the easterly side of Fourth Avenue, or Park Avenue, and below the surface of said avenue to the south side of Thirty-fourth Street, ascending to the surface of Fourth Avenue, then by an elevated road over, through and along Fourth Avenue, southerly to a point between Eighth Street and Ninth Street; thence through the block on the west side of Fourth Avenue, across Eighth Street and Astor Place, through Lafayette Place; through the block to Bond Street, to Crosby Street, and along Crosby Street to Grand Street; thence through the block diagonally to a point in Elm Street, near Howard Street; thence across Flower Street, along Elm to Pearl Street; thence diagonally across the block to Duane Street; thence along Duane Street to Centre Street; thence along Centre Street and Park Row to a line drawn easterly and westerly across the city at the south line of the City Hall. When the announcement was published of this

proposed route great was the consternation in the camp of the Manhattan Railway Company. The stock of this gigantic corporation tumbled 15 p.c. in one day, and each individual fair, of each individual director, who had any hair, "stood on end, like the quills of the fretful porcupine." Indeed there was reason for this agitation, for, should this proposed new road be established, it would, owing to its central location, become a very active and formidable competitor.

It is from newspaper accounts that the proposed route was petitioned for by Edwards Pierpont, ex-Attorney-General, ex-Minister to England, and the special and particular friend of Col. Stickins; Augustus Schell, a prominent director in the Vanderbilt railways, and Hugh J. Jewett, President of the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railway, and of which Col. Stickins is also an active director. In this juxtaposition of names and influences we are furnished with a key to the position—and while we do not object to it on that account, we still entertain the belief that the Commissioners did more towards extending rapid transit than they were asked or expected to do, and Mayor Cooper seems to have been somewhat taken aback at the rapid transit strikes taken by his chosen Commissioners. The report now awaits the approval of the Mayor and Aldermen—and the public whose dearest rights are not always regarded by soulless corporations and avaricious officials, will soon be entertained with what promises to be a very lively scrimmage.

Now we do not object to rapid transit. We are in favor of it. Neither do we oppose this projected central road—it will prove a very great comfort and convenience to thousands who travel to and from the Grand Central Depot. What we object to, however, is, that any such concessions should be given away to special favorites, to the detriment of the interests of the city and of property-holders on the route, who are called to suffer the gross form of injury and injustice.

It has been known for some time that a very large deal, and several small ones have been active in our municipal affairs.

American Commerce and Manufactures.

In a recent issue we published a number of letters from manufacturers in different parts of the country, as confirmatory of the opinion that the tide of national prosperity is again rising. A careful scrutiny of the last report of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York furnishes additional confirmation.

In 1873 the country had reached an apparent culmination of prosperity, the bollowness of which was only too conspicuous in the numerous mercantile disasters which almost immediately ensued.

Last year there was an apparent culmination of our financial troubles, yet we were in reality better off than in 1873.

It will be interesting to compare some statistics of the two periods:

Our total imports in the year 1873 reached \$398,565,836. For the year ending December 31st, 1878, our imports were \$393,186,867. The difference is 995,378,969. Our importations for 1873 were the largest on record, except for 1872. Those for 1878 were the smallest on record since 1868. In 1872 our importations amounted to \$432,106,686, making a difference as compared with 1878 of \$128,910,819.

Our exports in 1873 amounted to \$348,995,066, while in 1878 they reached \$362,522,088, a difference of \$13,617,022. For 1872 our exports were \$398,248,329.

We were therefore, in 1872 and 1873, in the position of a man with heavy indebtedness, yet who buys more than he sells. We are now with a large reduced debt, selling more than we buy. In the condition of affairs which existed in 1873 commercial embarrassment was inevitable. In the present improved condition of affairs prosperity seems equally certain.

The labor troubles, a cloud which recently threatened to obscure this prospect, seem to have been settled for the present. The Western iron mills are again in blast, and now we can perceive nothing likely soon to obstruct commerce or manufactures.

Nerve Stretching.

THE above is the name given to one of the latest novelties in modern surgery. The relief it seems to promise from some of the most acute and terrible diseases of the nervous system, entitles it to the earnest attention not only of the medical profession, but of the public at large.

We gather the facts embodied in this article from

a pamphlet written by William Tod Helmuth, M.D., chief surgeon of the Hahnemann Hospital of this city. The diseases referred to and the nature of the treatment are indicated in the following extract:

"The slighter deviations of the nervous system from the normal standard, such as hysteria, chorea and spinal anæmia, are always more or less difficult to manage; but when the graver manifestations, as exhibited in epilepsy, trismus, scintica and paresis, present, the medical art is well nigh powerless."

"Within the past few years surgery has developed a method for the relief and cure of many of these affections in that operation known as 'nerve stretching.' The exact sphere of this novel procedure, as yet, cannot be determined; but from the ends thus far obtained it appears to offer immense inducements for further trial. The results have so surprised me that I can scarcely foretell to what extent nerve stretching may be carried."

"If, indeed, scintica may be placed under control, if traumatic tetanus can be cured in its latest stages, if reflex epileptiform seizures can be prevented and paralytic spasms entirely annulled, what an inestimable boon nerve stretching must become to suffering humanity!"

The pamphlet contains an account of remarkable cases effected by the treatment, which, as its name implies, consists in laying bare the affected nerve and stretching it, not always gently but often severely.

The operation may be divided into three stages: 1. Laying bare the nerve within its sheath. 2. Drawing forward and stretching the nerve. 3. Reposition and application of dressings. The first act of the operation is a most important one. In a case of tetanus tetanus some of the nerves were found, not only in the nerve itself, but also in the surroundings of its sheath. In all such cases it is recommended directly to free the nerve sheath on all sides as far as one can reach; stretching them accomplishes the rest. The second act of the operation may be performed either manually or instrumentally. For the drawing forward of the nerve one naturally uses a blunt hook or an elevator, or for a small nerve an ordinary anæsthetic needle. The actual stretching is best accomplished by passing the forefinger, appropriately curved, beneath the nerve, and using it in conjunction with the thumb. By this means we secure as much force as is necessary, provided we place the limb in a suitable position. Were a hook used for the stretching, there would be a danger of locally injuring the nerve itself, which is not possible when the finger is used. In the case of small nerves, it would be impossible to pass the finger beneath them, and hence a thin elastic band may be substituted. In this way an elastic traction can be exercised without the risk of bruising or otherwise injuring the nerve itself. The last part of the operation consists of the dressing. If the stretched nerve does not recede when the limb is placed back in its normal position, or if the part operated upon is one in which the normal movements would be impossible, the operator must gently tuck in the nerve into its bed. A small bit of drainage tube is to be placed at the bottom of the wound, which may then be appropriately closed by a few sutures. Lister's dressing and spray ought to be used in these cases, as rapid union and a small scar must be tried for."

The sciatic nerve, the inferior dental nerve, the brachial plexus, the ulnar nerve, the tibial and peroneal nerves, the median nerve in the stump of a forearm and other nerves have been stretched for the cure of various forms of painful nervous disease, as well as for paralytic affections, traumatic tetanus and chorea. The torturing complaints, neuralgia and scintica appear to be especially submissive to this treatment, which, if it fulfills its present promises, will be an inestimable boon to humanity.

Drying Processes, and Patents Relating Thereto.—No. 2: Mechanical Drying.

HAVING briefly set forth the principal properties of water which must be considered in the discussion of drying processes, we shall proceed to consider drying processes which depend solely upon mechanical action.

These may be classified into simple filtering or straining, drying performed by squeezing or pressure, dryings of the kind which require centrifugal filtering, and drying by capillary attraction.

Drying by filtering or straining can be performed in all cases wherein the force of gravity acting upon the liquid to be removed is stronger than the adhesive attraction of the liquid for the porous, granular or fibrous substance to be dried, or wherein the force of gravity, assisted by some other force, is sufficient to overcome such adhesion.

In general, however, the latter force is so strong

that some of the liquid will remain after the straining or filtering, which remnant, if the substance to be dried is required to be perfectly desiccated, must be removed by other means, as evaporation by heat, absorption, air contact, etc.

The number of patents on filters is very large, and it annually increases. The purpose of most of them is to utilize the liquid filtered, not to dry the substance remaining in the filter. For the latter purpose, besides the well-known and common methods of filtering by gravity only, the methods of filtering by the pressure of a follower in a box or hopper, by pressure upon bags or folded cloths containing the substance to be dried, etc., have been used from time immemorial. An important improvement has, however, been recently introduced, which consists in utilizing the pressure of the atmosphere upon the upper surface of the liquid by making an air-tight connection between the filtering funnel or vessel, and the vessel which receives the liquid filtered or drained off, and producing a partial vacuum in the receiving vessel by means of a siphon or air pump. This method, we believe, was first introduced by Bunsen, and it is now quite generally used, on a small scale, to hasten filtration where the latter, effected by the action of gravity alone, proceeds more slowly than is desirable.

So far as the patents for various forms of simple filters relate to the subject of drying, they are few and unimportant. We have, however, passed this part of the subject without further remark, and glance briefly at drying performed by squeezing or pressure.

Appliances for this purpose consist in various kinds of presses, squeezers and wringers (inappropriately so called), which last effect pressure upon successive parts of fabrics or substances passed through rollers, elastic or otherwise, of which the familiar clothes-wringers are the best example. Few more meritorious inventions than the modern clothes-wringer appear the records of the Patent Office. The great merit of simplicity is so prominent a feature in its construction that the mechanical leanness of its operation is not generally appreciated. By its action very small power is made to perform what, by the old method of squeezing in bulk, a very large expenditure of power could not so efficiently accomplish. It has saved a great deal of money to manufacturers, and a vast deal of very exacting labor in most modern households. Next to the sewing machine, it is, perhaps, the most useful machine yet introduced into domestic service.

But we must hasten to processes of drying which involve more abstruse scientific principles, and shall pass rapidly over the other systems of mechanical drying included in our classification.

The well known centrifugal machine used by sugar refiners, with various modifications relating to bottom valves, self-balancing devices and other details of mechanism, has recently been a very great addition to pre-existing appliances for mechanical drying. When run at a high velocity it imparts a tangential force to the liquid contained in it, which, although in some measure resisted by gravity, yet gives a much greater motion than unaided gravity could impart to the same liquid by acting upon it during such distances as are practicable in ordinary draining. The adhesive force and mechanical resistance of the material to be dried is the same in this kind of drying as in ordinary draining, although the liquid passes out laterally instead of at the bottom of the containing enclosure.

Many patents have been taken out for this class of machines; but in all essential respects, so far as general principles are involved, it remains the same as when first invented. The centrifugal filter was patented in the United States by Thur, in 1844.

The last kind of mechanical action through which drying may be effected is absorption by capillary attraction. It is little used in the arts, except by chemists for small quantities of precipitates. Filtration paper is generally used for this purpose, commonly ordinary blotting paper. The wet precipitate is placed on the paper, which is generally of amorphous shape, and absorbs quickly most of the water or other liquid it is desired to remove; and by changing the precipitate from one paper to another, a considerable degree of drying can be very quickly effected. This method has the merit also of not injuring substances which would be changed by pressure or heat, in any quality desirable to preserve.

The Proposed New English Patent Law.

The following is a summary of the new Patent Bill recently introduced into the English Parliament. So far as we can see at present this bill is in the interest of progress. Concerning the iniquitous bill sought to be pushed through Congress last winter, it reflects great discredit upon the latter and its promoters.

The English bill embodies the following provisions:

1st. The duration of provisional protection is to be extended from six months to one year, and the stamp duties thereon lowered to half their present amount.

2d. A complete specification must, however, be filed before the expiration of nine months from date of original application, or the protection will terminate at the end of the twelfth month, and cannot afterwards be renewed.

3d. The complete specification shall be immediately published, with all other documents relating to the case, and for a prescribed period no one shall be at liberty to oppose the grant of a patent.

4th. If there be no opposition, the applicant may give notice to proceed, and secure his patent, for half the stamp duties now levied.

5th. A patent shall last for twenty-one years instead of fourteen, but shall become void if the £50 and £100 stamps be not duly paid at the end of the third and seventh years respectively, and an additional stamp of £100 before the end of the twelfth year.

6th. Patents can be amended or added to hereafter, but with such fees and limitations as to make an amendment—especially if an addition—almost as costly as an original patent. The amendment, however, then becoming part of the original patent, is not subject to additional stamp duties (this, however, is still a great improvement over existing practice, and all alterations mentioned so far are in favor of the patentee).

7th. The Crown shall have power to use any patented invention, paying the inventor such royalty as the Treasury shall consider fair.

8th. If an inventor do not work his invention in the country within three years of grant, and if he refuses to grant licenses on such terms as the Lord Chancellor shall consider reasonable, the patent will be annulled.

9th. Inventions first patented (or imported from) abroad can in future be patented in England by the foreign patentee (the being the true and first inventor) within six months of the date of the foreign patent, or of the date of this Act. But such patents will fall with the expiration of any foreign patent for the same invention, whether granted before or after the date of such patent.

10th. The Lord Chancellor shall have power, in certain cases, to allow a patentee who has accidentally omitted to pay his tax in time, to pay it within three months after it became due, and thereby save his patent.

11th. All patents applied for before the passing of the Act to be independent of all its provisions, except Article 10.

12th. The modes of procedure are altered in many respects interesting only to patent agents and lawyers.

A Singular Cause of Death.

THE last number of *Johnson's Dental Miscellany* gives an account of a death resulting from swallowing a set of teeth, which was accompanied by some remarkable phenomena. The victim of the accident was a man thirty-eight years of age. The teeth were three in number. They were fastened to a silver plate, and had been in his mouth for many years. Recently the hooks holding them in place had worn loose, and the artificial teeth had annoyed him by falling from his mouth several times. He had, however, gone about with his throat, and he could feel them loose. The patient suffered severely for five days, the teeth having remained in the upper part of the esophagus. He was then advised to swallow some gin as the best means of dislodging the teeth. This resulted in moving the teeth down to an inch and a half above the entrance to the stomach, where they remained till death occurred, seven weeks later. The teeth entered the stomach, the following danger, according to medical authority, would have been removed. But lodging as they did, the patient could swallow nothing, not even milk or water. It was absolutely impossible to get anything down his throat. Milk was recommended, but when it would be poured down, as soon as the glass would be removed from his lips, it would come back, exuding from ears, eyes, mouth and nostrils. The strangest of all was what followed. The man lived for seven weeks without swallowing a morsel of food or a drop of water. Even the juice of an orange he could not swallow. From a stout, hearty man, weighing probably 100 pounds, he dwindled away to a mere skeleton. His hands became horrible to look at by reason of their loss of flesh. Strangely enough, too, all this time, the man, who was perfectly conscious and intelligent, had no appetite, no craving for food. The smell of victuals, he said, made him sick. An operation for the removal of the teeth was proposed, but as no assurance of recovery could be made the proposal was rejected. The patient re-

tained his senses to the last, and requested a post-mortem examination, which discovered the plate lodged transversely, with its hooks firmly embedded.

Perpetual Motion.

If perpetual motion be defined as that of a body which, after having received an impulse, continues to move indefinitely in virtue of its inertia alone, it is, M. Plateau considers, realizable. He introduces a foreign force of constant nature to destroy resistance, instead of (as in the case of a pendulum) restoring motion (which resistance has withdrawn). This, conceive a horizontal disk movable round a vertical axis fixed to the centre of its under surface. A small hemispherical cavity is made on the upper face. A motor force of rapid rotation is got from a reservoir below the lowest water of a river, giving a uniform intense flow by a lower orifice. Before letting the water act on the disk, a top, previously set in very quick rotation, is deposited with its point in the middle of the hemispherical cavity; then the top is covered with a glass bell jar, which is fixed with its axis of rotation with that of the apparatus. The disk with the bell jar is then set rotating by means of the water in the same direction as the top. After a certain time (it may be supposed) the movements of the disk, top, and enclosed air will be equalized; then the top will no longer experience resistance at its point, for the support turns as quickly as it and in the same direction; nor will it, from surrounding air, for this also has the same angular velocity. Thus we should have the curious spectacle of a top remaining indefinitely in equilibrium on its point, presenting a case of perpetual motion in the sense defined. Of course the water would have to be let off after action on the apparatus, also the surplus water of the reservoir.

However, this kind of perpetual motion is a very different affair from the self-moving machines of visionaries. It is not a creator but a preserver of motion.

Facts Pertaining to the Manufacture and Uses of Wire and Wire Rope, and Teldynamic Transmission.

No. IV.

"There is no system of transmitting power comparable to that of wire rope in first cost. A comparison between rubber and leather belting and their equivalent in wire rope, would show the proportion of cost to be about as 1 to 5."

"In regarding the utility of this system of power transmission, it may be said to open a new chapter in productive possibilities."

"There is scarcely a manufacturing establishment of any magnitude where it is not desirable to transfer power to a seaport, a landing more or less remote, which the expense of a steam engine, with its special engineer in constant attendance, will not allow. Here is the solution of this difficulty, a method always ready, cheap and reliable."

"How many valuable water-powers are running to waste throughout this country merely because the cost of flumes or canals to available sites for factories will not warrant their erection, which this system of power transmission would make feasible on hill or vale, meadow or stream, topography or distance can scarcely offer an obstacle that is not readily overcome."

"The power thus transmitted can be distributed to any number of factories as well as to one, and may be conveyed across large streams, if they but allow the erection of piers, or natural objects offer points to locate intermediate stations. The motor may be on one side of the stream, and the factory on the other, at any point above or below it."

"A great saving may be effected in erecting factories by the substituting of wire rope for the long and heavy counter-shafting there used, and many special operations, as shearing, punching or rolling, may be performed with greater convenience in yards or outside depositories; whereas, now the material has to be carried into the mill to the shears or rolls, and then carried out again."

"In cities where property is valuable it is not always possible to secure that which is adjacent to your factory, while that across the street may be."

"Here power may be supplied to both without the heavy expense of underground shafting or separate engines."

"To begin to enumerate all the instances where it may be used with the greatest economy is a hopeless task, 'for the number is legion.' It is to say that in the utilization of natural powers the motor and factory need have no local relation to each other, their connection by this system being so simple and inexpensive, within reasonable

limits, as scarcely to form an item for consideration."

"One of the best examples of its peculiar utility is the one at Ochia, Russia. The immense government powder works located there were totally destroyed at a single explosion. They were replaced in 1864 by thirty-four distinct buildings at a safe distance apart, to which the power of three turbines, amounting to 274 H. P., is conveyed by wire rope, and thus distributed to each, making a line over a mile long."

"At the mines of Falun, Sweden, a power of over 100 H. P. is transmitted over three miles."

"The largest, and perhaps the most successful, wire rope transmission is the one at 'Schaffhausen, at the Falls of the Rhine.' Here the power of a number of turbines, amounting to over 600 H. P., is conveyed across the stream, and then a mile away to a town where it is distributed and utilized, a system that could be repeated with profit in hundreds of localities in our own country."

Other important uses for wire rope we must pass without discussion, as we have already extended this series of articles beyond the limits originally intended. It will hardly be necessary to speak of the enormous extension of the demand for the construction of suspension bridges. In large structures, however, as in "The Great East River Bridge," the main cables are generally constructed of parallel straight wires, and "twisted cables" are used only for the suspenders and stays.

In smaller structures the main cables frequently consist of single wire ropes, or several bound together.

Short tramways for unloading vessels, conveying ores in mines, facilitating coal, etc., are annually coming into more extended use, and the demand for wire rope for these and similar purposes correspondingly increases.

In towing boats in canals there exists a great future for wire rope. We announced, in an article published in our last issue, the completion of a contract by Mr. Haigh for the supply of 300 miles of crucible steel wire rope to the New York Steam Cable Towing Company, for use on the Erie Canal in the Belgian system of steam towing.

Besides the manufacture of wire rope and wire, the works of Mr. J. Lloyd Haigh produce annually large quantities of wire springs for upholstery and other purposes. Another department of this extensive and prosperous establishment is devoted to the manufacture of umbrella frames, in which department some interesting operations are conducted, and some ingenious machines are employed.

The establishment is well organized, and gives constant employment to a large number of hands. It is in all respects one of the most important localities in or near the city.

Stains of nitrate of silver (lunar caustic) can be safely removed from linen by touching the moistened spots with tincture of iodine till they turn yellow, and then treating them with sulphate of soda or strong ammonia.

The Autophone—A Most Ingenious Invention.

We illustrate herewith one of the most ingenious pieces of mechanism which has recently been produced. It is the invention of Professor Meritt Gally, of this city, already widely known as the inventor and manufacturer of the Universal printing press. By the application of this mechanism to any kind of keyed instrument, such as the piano, reed organ, or church organ, the automatic performance of any piece of music, whether for one or two performers, with every refinement of expression, is rendered possible. Nay, more, a



PROFESSOR GALLY'S AUTOPHONE.—FIG. 2.

flutist or violinist may, while performing a solo, produce his own accompaniment with the certainty of perfect accuracy as well as absolute subordination to his solo part, a very difficult thing to secure with the average accompanist. The autophone is not in itself a musical machine. In fact, it is more of a philosophical than a mechanical apparatus. It is applied, however, in the mechanical construction of musical instruments, and, as intimated above, it enables a person without any knowledge of music to render, on any kind of a keyed instrument, any piece of even the most difficult nature with all the expression of an artist. This he can do quite as easily as to operate an ordinary hand-organ, music-box, or musical cabinet, to produce what may strictly be called machine music. The aim of Prof. Gally in producing his

Fig. 1 represents a cabinet organ in which the autophone is constructed.

Fig. 2 represents a small roll of thin paper punctured with very small holes, by means of which the autophone is operated.

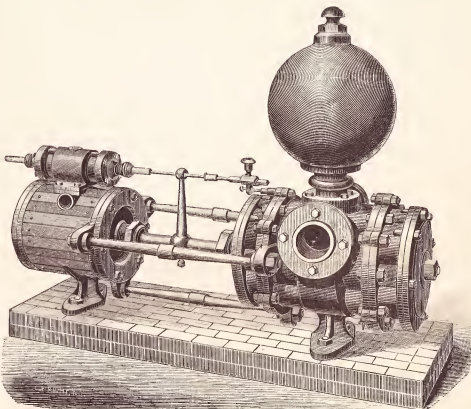
Wide, cambered music-sheets, having slots representing the notes of music, through which a sufficient quantity of air is forced to operate a set of reeds, is quite common in musical machines, but the music thus produced is of necessity of an inferior quality. The music-sheet for the autophone is not of this character, and for a large organ is only a narrow strip less than four inches in width. The punctures visible in the figure

represent a great many notes and expression movements, and still the air passing through them all would not be sufficient to sound a single note on a large organ pipe. The autophone operates pneumatically, but the small punctures in the music-sheet supply air only to trip very sensitive devices, which operate like the human fingers for producing the notes and opening and closing the stops, swells, etc. The perforations in the centre of the strip

represent the notes of the music, and those near the edges the expression to be given by the stops and expression devices of the organ, which respond to the action of the autophone with the same ease and rapidly as the note keys. Everything that can be indicated in the writing of music can be represented in this sheet, and will be perfectly followed by the action of the instrument, so that even the personal expression of any musician can be perfectly reproduced.

The autophone is, however, not limited to the expression indicated in the sheet. On each side of the receptacle in which the lady at the organ is placing the roll of sheet-music, four small keys will be seen, connected with levers. These small keys control the stops and expression devices of the organ, and with a simple touch any stop may be thrown in or out of action at pleasure.

These few keys can be learned in a few hours, so that a person can have full control of the mechanism of the instrument, although he would not be able to produce the simplest melody on the keyboard of the instrument. The expression keys are marked with the names corresponding with the stops which they represent, so that no mistake can be made. Music is not a mere accumulation of notes, but consists almost wholly in "expression." With the key-board perfectly manipulated by the autophone, it will be seen that any one can at once be a practical musician, producing music of quality corresponding with the cultivation of their musical taste, and not depending upon any expert performer. The mechanism of the autophone is connected with the ordinary pedals of the organ, and requires no skill for its operation. By use of the first key at the left of the receptacle for the sheet



THE NATIONAL STEAM PUMP.—DESCRIPTION, PAGE 149.

invention has been to divest automatic music of its mechanical qualities, and still enable any one to produce music of a much higher quality without the necessity of long-continued practice.

a hold may be made on any note or a rest, at the pleasure of the performer, and by means of the same key in connection with the white button any strain can be instantly withdrawn for repetition. These features particularly adapt the auto-

phone to accompaniments for singing, giving the singer full control of his instrument.

The autophone addresses itself not only to the interests of those unskilled in practice but who wish good music, but also to musicians themselves. Any artist will readily see that if he could have his key-board manipulated for him perfectly, and he had only to control the expression of his instrument, he could attain to heights of excellence never before within his reach. With a sufficient number of stops he can readily imitate a whole orchestra, bringing in any instrument, for even a single note or part of a note, to produce the most brilliant effects.

It is the intention of the inventor to place the autophone on the market in connection with the best make of cabinet and pipe organs, and also as a movable and portable attachment for organs and pianos already in use. The invention is as well adapted to pianos as organs, giving automatically all the variety of touch possible to the fingers of any performer.

The expression keys, which in the organ control the stops, control the touch and soft and loud pedals of the piano, so that the same variety may be attained by a person wishing to exercise his own taste instead of the expression represented in the music-sheet.

The sheets will be prepared according to the expression of the best masters, and will be sold at the price of ordinary printed music.

Our space forbids the discussion of this invention in several aspects which present themselves. We must refer the reader for further information to Prof. Gally himself, whose office is at No. 5 Spruce Street, New York.

The National Steam Pump.

THE use of steam pumps in almost every branch of manufacturing, for mining and other purposes, has become so general, that this manufacture is at the present time a very important item of our national industries. As the demand has increased largely from year to year, more attention has been given to improvement in every particular. Great efficiency, with marked simplicity, are distinguishing characteristics of some of the latest styles of steam pumps.

The National Steam Pump, which we illustrate in this issue, is one of the leading competitors for public favor. It possesses special features of merit that are worthy of the careful attention of all persons in any way interested in this subject. It has received the endorsement of many practical men, and it was awarded the highest medal and diploma at the Centennial Exposition, the silver medal and diploma at the American Institute Fair, 1876, as well as other similar testimonials of merit.

It is of the direct-acting kind, the steam-cylinder working the pump by the same rod. The steam and pump cylinders are connected together by three brace rods, which keep the strain that exists between the two cylinders in a direct and central line. This plan is preferable to that of connecting the steam and pump cylinders by a bell-pipe, on account of the springing of the latter from the unequal strain thrown thereon, which binds more or less all the working parts in proportion as the strain increases.

The steam and water pistons have packing rings, actuated by the pressure within their respective cylinders. The valve gear consists of an auxiliary motor which operates the valve of the main engine when it is in an operative state—that is, when the main engine is at the point of reversing.

This valve gear consists of the usual number of elements—namely, an auxiliary steam-cylinder with its piston and valve. The elements are, however, simplified by being embodied in some of the parts performing other functions.

The main steam-valve is the well known piston-valve, performing with its opposite ends or faces the function of the auxiliary piston. The main valve-stem performs the function of auxiliary valve in combination with the main valve-chest, which also performs the office of an auxiliary cylinder. The main valve-stem, when the engine is running fast, carries the valve to its proper position, being secured to the valve by a swell or auxiliary tappet, confined in the centre of the bore of the main valve by two heavy steel springs, secured at each end of the valve between a counter bore and a collar screwed to a shoulder, there being a certain amount of play or lost motion between the swell and springs, in order that the stem may be moved for the admission and expansion of steam into and from the auxiliary cylinders without moving the main valve or auxiliary piston.

The auxiliary valve has four slots cut in the stem and combined with passages in the valve chest-bonnet, communicating with auxiliary cylinder and

main valve-chest. The valve is so arranged that the main engine, through the medium of the tappet-lever on the main piston-rod, closes the main valve and auxiliary piston; but before the valve is entirely closed, the auxiliary valve or slots in the valve-stem, combined with the ports in the valve chest-bonnet, admit or emit steam on the respective opposite sides, closing the main valve entirely and also opening the same on the opposite side; thereby admitting and emitting steam into and from the main cylinder for a return stroke.

The movement of the main valve and auxiliary piston from end to end of the valve-chest is checked

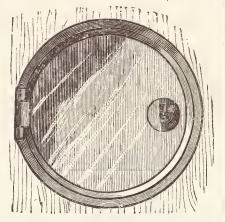


FIG. 1.—MILK RECEIVER—EXTERIOR.

by the same springs that secure the valve-stem to the main valve. The valve and auxiliary pistons are driven to and fro by two combined actions, being started by the main engine and afterwards assisted by the auxiliary steam motor before mentioned, and still further aided by a spring which is kept compressed by the steam during the stroke of the main engine until the valve is started for the return stroke, when the spring is released, the valve being locked in position by the pressure of the steam until ready for the return stroke. The advantages of

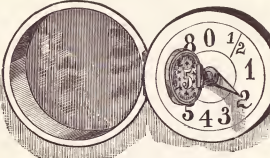


FIG. 2.—INSIDE VIEW.

this arrangement are evident. In most valve gears the blow of the valve against the chest-heads is checked by cushioning on steam in various ways; some by closing the exhaust ports before the valve reaches its destination, others by admitting steam, while still others have steam or air cushions attached to the valve gear; all of which have their defects, the greatest being that the water entering these cushions chokes up those parts and renders them

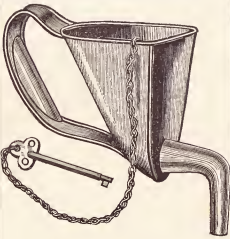


FIG. 3.—FUNNEL AND KEY.

inactive just when the pump is most needed. Engineers are well aware that when a pump is started, or is running very slowly, the pipe is filled with the water of condensation, and the greater the length of the pipe the greater the condensation.

It is claimed that this pump will run as well with water as with steam; consequently, if the pipe is full of water, the effect would be that of a hydraulic engine, and this pump may be used to raise water above the source of supply in order to operate other machinery. In the construction of a good pump there should be as few angles as possible for the water to pass in entering and leaving the cylinder, as every angle adds to the labor of the motive power. Of this pump it may be said, with one exception, that the water lies at the door of the cylinder chamber, for the suction and the delivery valves are in the heads of the cylinders, each having an area proportioned to that of the cylinder, never less than one-quarter in the smallest pump made; there being also no space or clearance left between the piston and heads. The ports lead from the suction-valves to the pump-cylinder, and thence to delivery-valves.

The construction of the motive valve gear is such that the strokes of the pumps are of uniform length, there being hardly any perceptible difference whether the pump is running slow or fast.

The one exception above mentioned consists in connecting the suction-pipe at the top of the cylinder in lieu of connecting it directly with the bottom passage. This arrangement may have its disadvantages, but it is claimed that they are more than compensated for by the result obtained in the working of the pump; a siphon being formed which keeps the suction-valves continually immersed in water. The instant the piston moves the water enters the cylinder and follows the piston, the pump being always charged, and consequently drawing water without difficulty.

The valves are easily accessible; by removing a bonnet at each end of the cylinder access may be had to any of the valves, and they may be removed and replaced, with their seats. Every passage may be examined and access had thereto.

The various sizes of this pump are manufactured by William E. Kelly, at the National Iron Works, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Donaldson's Milk Receiver.

We take pleasure in placing before our readers a really useful and simple device for domestic use, which, in the delivery and receipt of milk, as retailed from wagons in cities and towns, must result in very great convenience both to dealers and consumers.

To dealers it will save a great deal of time now wasted in waiting for tardy servants, and in retracing routes, or parts of routes, for the supply of those who will not be roused at an early hour, but whose custom it is desirable to retain. Its general adoption will enable the milkmen to reach their route by the shortest available road, and pass over it with the greatest economy of time possible, without the necessity of any signal by bell-ringing or shouting, and to finish their route at an hour early enough to accommodate every customer.

To consumers it will save the necessity of waiting for the milk wagon, the risk in

placing vessels outside of dwellings from the depredations of cats and tramps, the annoyance of the milkman's morning call, and the discomfort of being aroused too early.

Fig. 1 is an exterior view and Fig. 2 an interior view of the device. Fig. 3 represents the funnel employed to transfer the milk to the consumer's pitcher or other receptacle.

The device consists in a small apparatus, two and a half inches in diameter, secured by a strong, safe lock and key (as a post-office box), to be inserted through a two-inch hole in an iron gate, door, glass window, or any other feasible place. It is manufactured of metal, extra nickel-plated, is an ornament to a door and can be arranged by any carpenter.

When opened on the inside, as shown in Fig. 2, the receiver presents a two-inch opening and an indicator, with figures from 0 to 8, denoting pints, attached to which is a coin or ticket holder. The coin or ticket, also quantity of milk required, can be regulated from the inside of the house without exposure. There is also a pitcher-holder, sold separate, if required, to hold different sized pitchers.

The funnel shown in Fig. 3 has the key to the receiver attached thereto by a chain. When the receiver is opened the nozzle of the funnel is passed through the opening, and the amount of milk demanded, as shown by the indicator, is poured through it.

The cost of the device is only two dollars and a half, inserted in wood, and it certainly merits universal approval.

By reference to advertisement in another column, it will be seen that State Rights are for sale.

Further particulars, samples, etc., may be obtained by addressing Mr. F. Donaldson, No. 2 Spruce Street, New York City.

Bessemer Steel.

ADDRESS BY MR. BESSEMER, BEFORE THE IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE.

We abstract the following from an interesting address delivered by Mr. Bessemer before the Iron and Steel Institute, England, at a recent meeting of that society. The engravings represent specimens exhibited by the speaker in the course of his remarks.

Iron was the first object he sought to obtain before venturing to make steel by his process. The first sample now shown was a little bar of iron 3 in. square, which was bent cold, and which was considered not a bad sample of cold bending. The second sample to which he would call attention was a little gun, a small and modest production, but one that had its peculiarities. It was a gun made of malleable iron without weld or joint. That it was made of malleable iron he was desirous to ascertain without question, and, in March, he requested Mr. Riley to see it put in the lathe and a small sample turned off, and then to take the sample and analyze it.

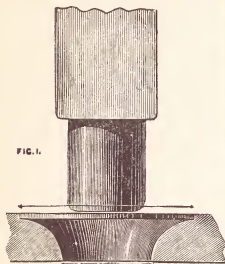


FIG. 1.

It was found that the metal of the gun contained 99.84 per cent. of pure iron; that was perhaps as near to pure iron as could be got. That gun was made in 1858—21 years ago. It was shown in that hall to the superintendent of the gun factory at Woolwich; and, upon the strength of it, certain cylinders were made of malleable iron and mild steel. He now exhibited a mild steel cylinder of 5 in. bore and 1 1/4 in. in thickness of metal, simply cast and crushed flat under the steam hammer while cold. He also produced a very interesting sample which he hoped would interest those present.



FIG. 2.

ent as a reminiscence of what had been done before. It would be remembered that the vessel first used by him for the converting process was a fixed upright cylinder. This form converter had been adopted in Sweden, and into it they ran metal direct from the blast furnace; that metal was never made into pig, but was blown and made into ingots in nine minutes. One of those ingots was brought over to England, and was rolled into a circular saw plate of 5 ft. in diameter. This was the first Bessemer steel ingot ever rolled into a plate in this country; the ingot was unhammered,

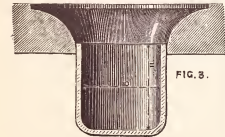


FIG. 3.

and was produced without the use of ferro-manganese, speigleisen, or recarburization. It was interesting to him, as the result of the first intimation of his process given to the world, through the

British Association at Cheltenham. He had also a remarkable sample of the further practical working of this process very soon after the erection of his steel works at Sheffield, twenty years ago. Mr. Parkes, of Birmingham, had invented a system of producing copper tubes by pressing a round disc through a hole by a plunger, thus producing a kind of cup, which was subsequently extended by drawing in dies to a tube with a closed end. At his (Mr. Bessemer's) works at Sheffield, Mr. Parkes said he could do the same with steel as with copper, although he was obliged to use the best copper to do it. He (Mr. Bessemer) then thought differently, and said, "It is utterly impossible that so rigid a material as steel could be so treated." But Mr. Parkes was so sure and earnest that he (Mr. Bessemer) was induced to go the same evening

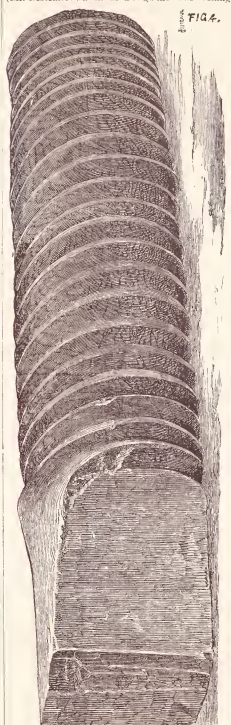


FIG. 4.

without the slightest injury being done to the metal. Thus the circumference of a plate 27 inches in diameter had been reduced to a circle of 11 inches. It was not done hot. If they had attempted to do so, the heat would have been abstracted unequally, and a flaw would inevitably have resulted. He did not know how such a thing could be done; he only knew that it was done before his sight; and he took that to be the best evidence of a fact very much disputed, viz., that twenty years ago a mild steel could be so treated as copper was produced. He had also a very interesting sample that was quite the work of their early days. The President had told them that they had rolled two rails from ingots at Dowling. He had there the identical rails, or rather a portion of one of the identical rails, which were rolled under the superintendence of Mr. Williams, twenty-two years ago, and a more perfect rail they were not likely to get, so far as regards the power of rolling. But, in other respects, they had now got a very much better material, for this rail was found to be poor in carbon and rich in phosphorus.

Mr. Bessemer, in the course of his remarks, also exhibited a steel rail twisted cold throughout its



FIG. 5.

entire length, of one end of which Fig. 5 is a representation. Another interesting sample was a 4 inch square bar, twisted hot. This is shown in Fig. 4. The address and the sample excited much interest and discussion. They show very conspicuously the capacities of this remarkable metal.

The Inflexible Self-setting Cat Exterminator.—A Remarkable Invention.

It is the *New Orleans Times* which is entitled to the credit for bringing prominently into public notice the remarkable invention here described. Topoloff's Cat-Tenser must now take rank as one of the steps in the progress of civilization, relegated to a past age. In its day it was a great embarrassment to cats, but a greater than it has come.

The journal referred to says: Last April letters patent were issued to one J. Tomlinson Hathaway, of Elizabeth, N. J., for the "Automatic, Inflexible, Self-setting Exterminator"—a machine which was adapted to fill a want long felt in every family, and at the same time ruin the business of the chinaware and boot-jack dealers. It is a combination of steel springs, barbed hooks, syringes, high-pressure air receivers and clockwork, constructed in the form of a diminutive cat, and covered with the skin of one of those mathematical but obnoxious animals. Underneath the supposititious belly is a clamp, so arranged that the "Inflexible" can be screwed on top of a fence and look as naturally as a living cat. When properly wound up it is fit to run for twenty-four hours. Every five minutes during the silent watches a portion of the compressed air is let out in a growl of challenge which will not fail to arouse the ire and attention of any cat within earshot. At the same time a small Rhumkorf coil within sends a current of electricity through small Gassiot tubes in the eyes, making them gleam with greenish and hellish fire. This, together with the small size of the couchant Inflexible, is generally sufficient to draw the wandering felines of the neighborhood to the scene. Now, when one of them approaches sufficiently near to touch a small steel wire which projects from the Inflexible, the defiant yowl is repeated, and two small sprays of diluted vitriol are spit out at the cat—calculated to arouse the deepest indignation the turbulent breast of a cat is capable of. At the same time the counterfeited tail will swell up and wave to and fro aggressively. The natural result is a closing in of the now excited cat upon the Inflexible, touching a hair-trigger and releasing the machinery. The barbed claws now clutch the victim, the vitriol squirts, there is a wriggle, a yell and three yawns, and all is over. Then there is a faint click, the Inflexible's claws relax, the victim drops to the ground, and all is ready for another cat.

For the removal of boiler scale, principally composed of sulphate of lime, it is said that trisphosphate of soda is the best preparation. It absorbs the free carbonic acid in the water and acts upon the sulphate of lime, precipitating it as mud to the bottom of the boiler. In one case where this preparation was used the boiler was worked for five months without being cleaned, and only the very slightest deposit, which could be easily displaced by a touch, was formed.

The Rolling Mill of the Future.

Messrs. Dilworth, Porter & Co., whose rolling mill and spike works are at Pittsburgh, have now, and have been for nearly two years (upon the authority of the *American Journal of Industry*, from which we extract the substance of the present article), using a continuous rolling mill or train that has drawn considerable attention among people interested in iron manufacture. It is a self-operating roll-train. The entire mechanism consists of a bed-plate, not relied upon a foundation, as it is customary to do with the ordinary roll-train, but resting upon stout legs that hold it ten or twelve inches above the floor. This bed-plate constitutes the seat or resting place of ten pairs of ordinary guide roll housings, each having a two-inch diameter chilled rolls, with lat *en-groove* in each pair, and these directly opposite or in line; so that when the pile or billet (so far only 1½ inch billet is used) is entered at the first pair of rolls, it next passes to the second pair, thence to the third pair, and so on through the entire ten pairs, and is delivered a finished bar or rod, of a size for the spike machine to cut into three or four sizes of spikes commonly used in broad-gauge, narrow-gauge and coal mine railways. The first pair of rolls are driven at a speed of about ten revolutions per minute, while the tenth or last pair are driven at about two hundred and fifty revolutions per minute. The train is driven by belt, between which and the rolls are located a series of wheels so proportioned that each pair of rolls have imparted to them the speed required, from ten to two hundred and fifty, as stated. No catcher, rougher-down, or catcher's assistant are employed to operate this train; one man can oversee all, who time the billet enters, until caught by the boys who pass the finished rod to the spike machines.

The quantity produced by this train is daily (ten hours' work) thirty tons; but it will be apparent to any one who looks at the train, that it has a capacity for fifty tons. At present it is required to produce only sufficient to keep the spike machines going, and to do this does not by any means demonstrate the capacity of the continuous mill. Indeed, the interval between the rolling of the bars is greater than the time occupied by the iron in passing through.

Mr. James H. Sweet, a member of the firm of Dilworth, Porter & Co., and well known as the inventor of numerous useful inventions which have long before the public, is the inventor of this continuous mill, which is expected by the capitalists of judging, to be the method of the future. It is certain that of the many devices now and for some time before the public for doing away with hand rolling, none have gone so far toward practicality or succeeded so well in winning the approval of practical men as this. It is the only continuous train yet devised in which horizontal rolls are alone employed that is a positive success. Bloomer & Co., of Pittsburgh, who are present engaged in putting down an entire plant for steel production, have lately had finished a limited continuous train, which is to roll wire to No. 10 wire gauge. This, too, is made under Mr. Sweet's patent, and was built by J. L. Lewis, of the same city.

Restoring the Apparently Drowned.

The season having arrived wherein most danger of accidental drowning exists, we have thought proper to publish the directions for restoring the apparently drowned, taken from the latest instructions issued by our Life Saving Service; they are those of Dr. Howard.

When you can do so, send immediately for a regular medical practitioner.

RULE I.—Arouse the Patient.—Unless in danger of freezing, do not move the patient, but instantly expose the face to a current of fresh air, wipe dry the mouth and nostrils, rip the clothing so as to expose the chest and waist, and give two or three quick smarting slaps on the stomach and chest with the open hand. If the patient does not revive, proceed thus:

RULE II.—To Draw off Water etc., from the Stomach and Chest.—If the jaws are clenched, separate them, and keep the mouth open by placing between the teeth, or the lower lat of wood, turn the patient on the face, a large bundle of tightly rolled clothing being placed beneath the stomach, and pressing heavily over it for half a minute, or so long as fluids flow freely from the mouth.

RULE III.—To Produce Breathing.—Clear the mouth and throat of mucus by introducing into the throat the corner of the handkerchief, and clear closely around the forefinger, turn the patient on the back, the roll of clothing being so placed as to raise the pit of the stomach above the level of any other portion of the body. If there be another person present, let him with a piece of dry cloth hold the tip

of the tongue out of one corner of the mouth (this prevents the tongue from pulling back and obstructing the windpipe), and with the other hand grasp both wrists, and keep the arms forcibly stretched back above the head, thereby increasing the prominence of the ribs, which tends to enlarge the chest. The two last-named positions are not, however, essential to success. Kneel beside or astride the patient's hips, and with the balls of the thumbs resting on either side of the pit of the stomach, let the fingers fall into the grooves between the short ribs, so as to afford the best grasp of the waist. Now, using your knees as a pivot, throw all your weight forward, so that the arms and at the same time, press the waist between them, as if you wished to force everything in the chest upward out of the mouth; deepen the pressure until you can count slowly one, two, three; then suddenly let go with a final push, which springs you back upon your first-kneeling position. Remain erect on your knees while you can count one, two, three; then repeat the same motions as before, at a rate gradually increased from four or five to fifteen times in a minute, and continue thus this bellows movement, with the same regularity that is observable in the natural motions of breathing which you are imitating. If natural breathing be not resorted after a trial of the bellows movement for three or four minutes, then, without interrupting the artificial respiration, turn the patient a second time on the stomach, as directed in Rule II., raising the body in the opposite position from that in which it was first turned, for the purpose of freeing the air passages from any remaining water. Continue the artificial respiration from one side, turning the patient to the other side, and for a while after the appearance of returning life, carefully aid the first short gasps until deepened into full breaths. Continue the drying and rubbing, which have been unceasingly performed from the beginning, taking care not to interfere with the means employed to produce breathing. Thus, the limbs of the patient should be rubbed, always in an upward direction towards the body, with firm grasping pressure and energy, using the bare hands, dry flannels or handkerchiefs, and continuing the friction under the blankets, or over the dry clothing. The warmth of the body can also be promoted by the application of hot flannels to the head, face, and arm-pits, bottles or bladders of hot water, heated bricks, stones, etc., to the limbs and soles of the feet.

RULE IV.—After-Treatment.—Externally, as soon as breathing is established, let the patient be stripped of all wet clothing, wrapped in blankets only, put to bed comfortably warm, but with a free evolution of fresh air, and left to perfect rest. Internally: Give a little brandy and hot water, or other stimulant at hand, every ten or fifteen minutes during the first hour, and as often thereafter as the patient requires. *Later expedients.* After respiration is fully established there is great danger of congestion of the lungs, and if perfect rest is not maintained for at least forty-eight hours, it sometimes happens that the patient is seized with great difficulty of breathing, and death is liable to follow unless immediate relief is afforded. In such cases apply a large mustard plaster over the breast. If the patient gasps for breath before the mustard takes effect, assist the breathing by carefully repeating the artificial respiration.

The clenching of the jaws and semi-contraction of the fingers, which have hitherto been considered signs of death, are, in fact, evidences of remaining vitality, and should serve as a stimulant to vigorous and prolonged efforts to quicken vitality. Persons engaged in the task of resuscitation are, therefore, earnestly desired to take hope and encouragement for the life of the sufferer from the signs above referred to, and to continue their endeavors accordingly. In a number of cases Dr. Laboratoire reports that the patient is seized with convulsions, clenched that, to aid respiration, their teeth had to be forced apart with iron instruments.

Refrigerating a 1,500 Ton Iron Ship—Can it be Done?

For some time past a project has been in contemplation by the Government at Washington, for constructing a refrigerating ship to be supplied with the requisite machinery for the purpose of freezing meat and on the ogh ult, the board of naval engineers appointed by Secretary Thompson, at the request of the National Board of Health, entered upon their duties as to the method best adapted for the purpose. Fourteen plans, with specifications, were submitted by inventors, representing four different refrigerating agents, namely, anhydrous ammonia, liquid ammonia, vaporized ether and compressed air.

The object aimed at, is to determine the best agent and cheapest process of reducing the atmosphere in a 1,500 ton ship to zero, Fahrenheit, at New Orleans, in the month of July.

The whole amount appropriated for the construction of the ship and her refrigerating machinery is \$300,000, and the specifications provide that the machinery, inner skin and other parts of the vessel shall be reduced to zero. Among the competitors there are several inventors of high standing in this field of science. It is said that the great difficulties to be encountered make the scheme almost impracticable, if not impossible. With the thermometer outside say at eighty-eight, it would require great power in a machine to reduce the temperature of a 1,500 ton iron ship to zero.

Messrs. Neafie & Levy, the well-known engineers and ship-builders, claim to have the best of the ice-making and refrigerating machines used in this country, being the Holden patent. Yesterday, Mr. Holden, in conversation with a *Bulletin* reporter, gave a number of interesting facts concerning the proposed refrigerating ship. He said that, with the vessel stationed in the Mississippi, with a July temperature, it would require an enormous machine to reduce the temperature of the vessel to zero. In company with others, Mr. Holden had been invited to offer plans for refrigerating the proposed vessel, which calls for reducing a space or atmosphere of one hundred and fifty thousand cubic feet to a temperature of zero. In order to be cooled, it is only necessary to imagine an apartment 250 feet long by 40 feet wide and 15 feet high. The heat to be absorbed from the contained air in such an apartment would amount to the melting of 1,500 pounds of ice at zero to cool that air. To absorb the heat penetrating the vessel from the decks would be equal to the melting of over one thousand pounds of ice. In order to absorb the heat from the sides, ends, etc., would equal the melting of 1,103 tons of ice to reduce the air to zero.

To reduce the interior of a 1,500 ton iron ship to zero and maintain that temperature would require the utter lining of the ship above the water line to be encrusted with ice or frost before it could be accomplished, while the warm water of the river below the water line would prevent such a measure. Of course it would be a different matter altogether, if the ship was insulated with felt or other heat non-conducting substances, or if the vessel was placed on land, and, in fact, it hardly seems practicable to refrigerate that iron ship.

It remains to be seen what the Board of Engineers will do in the matter. One thing, however, appears certain, and that is, that the construction of a refrigerating machinery cannot be constructed for the sum of two hundred thousand dollars.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*.

A SOLUTION of common sodium sulphate will rapidly remove the stains of most of the aniline dyes from the hands.

CISTEENS containing the domestic water-supply should be occasionally run out and well scrubbed with a broom, and the water supply should be disinfected with a hot solution of potassium permanganate.

American Sumac.

THE *Chemical Review* records some experiments upon this material which will be useful to producers of the article. The object of the inquiry appears to have been to ascertain the main cause of the difference in the value of the American and Sicilian productions, and why the latter is so much preferred by tanners and dyers. Upon inquiry among the dealers, it appears by the employment of the American product the resulting work, in tanning especially, has been of a better and more durable color. Since the present analysis, and those published elsewhere, show a large percentage of tannic acid in favor of the American product, it is evident that the difficulty must depend entirely upon a coloring matter, which, according to the *Fresenius' Zeitschrift für Analytische Chemie*, 1873, pp. 127, 128), consists of quercitrin and quercetin, which exists in larger quantity in the American than in the Sicilian sumac. The authors made to determine a ready and practical mode by which the separation of these coloring matters from the tannic acid in solution and their estimation might be effected, and they succeeded. The deportment with re-agents is so similar to that of tannic acid, and their solubility in water appears to be so much modified by the presence of tannic acid, our endeavors in this end were unsuccessful. But while there may be no practicable method which may be applied to the separation of the coloring matter when in solution, we believe we have discovered a method by which the separation of the matter in which this may be effected will appear later on. In the mean time, let us compare the percentages of tannic acid in the product, as indicated by our estimations in specimens collected at stated intervals during the season. Samples of

sumac were collected in the mouths of June, July and August, respectively. Of these samples, those collected in June and July were mixed varieties; and of the product collected in August we secured samples of the leaves of *Khus glabra* and *Khus copallina*, separately. For comparison with the Virginia material we obtained a sample of Sicilian sumac. In all of these samples the tannic acid was estimated by means of the method of Jean, published in the *Bulletin de la Société Chimique de Paris*.

The results obtained are indicated in the following table:

Variety.	Time of Collection.	Percentage of Tannic Acid.
Winchester, mixed.	June.	22.75
"	"	27.38
"	July.	27.38
"	August.	23.50
"	"	16.09
Sicilian <i>Khus coccinea</i> .	"	24.27

It is evident, therefore, that in order to secure the maximum amount of tannic acid, the sumac should be collected in July. But, as before stated, the coloring matter of the leaves has an important influence upon the value of the product, and it appeared of value to determine when it was present in smaller quantity. At first it seemed reasonable to suppose that leaves from the young growth of wood, in which the coloring matter is not yet formed, as in the older wood, might be collected and found free from this troublesome substance, but examinations proved that this is not the case. It was therefore determined to make some experiments upon the color of precipitates with gelatine made by means of solutions of the material collected in the different months, having the same strength in tannic acid for each.

In some of the tests, the precipitates obtained by means of the solution of the June collections, mixed sumacs were perfectly white and very much cleaner than any obtained from the Sicilian product. The difference in the color of the precipitates obtained from the solution of the June collection and that from solutions of the samples of later collections, was sufficiently marked to prove that the great difficulty in the way of the commercial employment of the American to the exclusion of the expensive Sicilian product may be obviated by making our collections early in the season; that is, in the month of June. The percentage of tannic acid is not, it is true, quite as high as obtained in July, but it compares favorably with the Sicilian product.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE NEW CARPENTER'S AND BUILDER'S ASSISTANT AND WOOD-WORKER'S GUIDE. Revised and enlarged by Lucius D. Gould, Architect and Practical Builder. New York: Bicknell & Comstock, Architectural Designers and Publishers, 1879.

This book is one of the numerous publications designed to assist practical workmen, and it is much to be commended in having to a much greater extent than is usual with books of its class, fulfilled its promise and purpose. Good, practical, concisely stated and easily comprehended rules, illustrated by diagrams, are given for finding sections of pieces placed in any position; for cutting every description of joints; for finding the form of the raking mould at any point divergent from the straight line; for springing and bending mouldings; for mitering circular mouldings, and planes oblique to the base at any angle. In addition to this, tables of the weight and strength of materials, and other matters of practical importance, fill out the body of the treatise, illustrating a useful glossary of technical terms.

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A small but comprehensive treatise. May easily be carried in the pocket for ready reference. It is written by an experienced plasterer and contains important information to all in the trade, as well as to dealers in plasterers' materials.

GRAPHICAL COMPUTING TABLE. By William H. Bixby, Lieutenant of Engineers, U. S. Navy. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 15 Astor Place, 1879.

This is a very ingenious and curious help, by which, without calculation and by inspection merely, anybody may multiply or divide by any number, find the square, third or fifth power of any number, extract the second, third or fifth root of any number, obtain the circumference or area of any circle, obtain the volume of any sphere, or multiply or divide by the size, cosine, tan-

gent or cotangent of any arc, reduce feet to metres or metres to feet, or compute percentages with an error of computation in all cases less than half of one per cent.

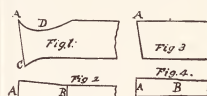
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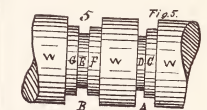
Smoky Chimney.—I find the following "cure" published in the *Illustrated Carpenter and Builder*, which hails from London: "Suspend a sheep's bladder down about four feet from the top of the chimney by a small wire attached to a stick across the top. This will last about twelve months, when a fresh bladder will be required. This I have found to answer in chimney-tops below the main building." The following queries suggest themselves: Why a bladder? Why a sheep's bladder? Why suspend the bladder? Why suspend it by a wire? Why suspend by a wire attached to a stick placed across the top of the chimney? Why suspend this part of the sheep's anatomy four feet from the top of the chimney? Should it be suspended inside or outside the chimney? Why does the charm fail at the end of twelve months? Why does the bladder prove most efficient in chimney-tops below the main building? Here is matter for an inquiring mind to ruminate upon.—R. McC.

We give it all up. The science of some of our contemporaries across the big pond is sometimes a little too ponderous for us.—EDS. SCI. NEWS.

Cutting Grooves by Hand.—In Figs. 1 and 2 is shown the proper form of hand-tool to cut grooves



in wrought-iron, etc., while Figs. 3 and 4 show a tool formed for soft metals, as brass, etc. If the groove to be cut is a wide or a very deep one the tool should be made narrow and several cuts taken, as



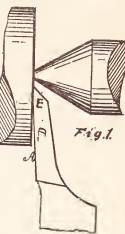
shown in Fig. 5, in which *w* represents a piece of work requiring grooves at *A*; *B*; *C*; *D* is a groove being cut at two cuts, while *E*, *F*, *G*, *H* is being cut at three cuts. In each case one *F* follows the tool while it is taking the other one.

Tar for Roofs and Fences.—I have many years had the management of building for a gentleman of large landed and house property. He is very partial to tar, so I have been obliged to study the best plan I could find. We have used many of the patent dressings without satisfaction. We have used one pint of

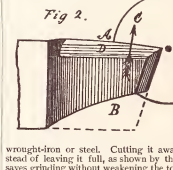
water tight, and look as good as new, which have stood near twenty years.—P. A.

Silvering Glass.—Melt in an iron ladle 4 oz. each of pure lead, pure tin and bismuth; stir these well together; then add 8 oz. of quicksilver, and thoroughly mix. The glass to be silvered should have a narrow strip of paper on the edge, and be made as warm as it can be held in the hand. A little of the hot metal is then poured on it, and the glass tilted every way, that the metal may run over and cover it. When the metal has set remove the pieces of paper, and brush the back over with paint.

Side Tool.—A side or knife tool should be set so that it cuts at and near its point only, as at *r* in Fig. 1; the cutting edge being clear of the work at *s*. The angle of the top face *t* should vary in the direc-

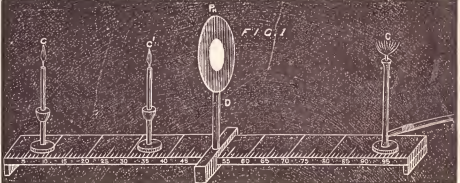


tion denoted by *C*; Fig. 2, being made less for hard than for soft metal, and less for brass than for iron.



wrought-iron or steel. Cutting it away as at *r*, instead of leaving it full, as shown by the dotted lines, saves grinding without weakening the tool.

Light Measuring.—Instruments for this purpose are called photometers. No one in use is better than Bunsen's for common use. We give a cut and description of this instrument which, in the present era of improvement in illumination, may be useful to some of our readers. *A* represents a graduated scale, and *B* a disk of paper with a graduated spot in the center. This spot, when equally illuminated from both sides, looks equally light or dark on both sides. To test the illuminating power of a light—say a gas-burner—this light is placed on one side of the disk *B*,



lined out to one gallon of coal tar. We now use, for new fence, one or two dressings of pine tar, and when mix a pint or more of misstakes' line to one gallon of gas tar, and repeat it about once in three years. For light roof, for sheds, etc., we use light reds, and cover with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deal; then one coat of pine tar; then a coat of coal tar, and cover with felt; another coat of coal tar, and when dry another coat of coal tar. Sow by hand immediately on the last coat of tar. If you can get it to lay on even, a mixture of one part Portland cement, and two parts of river or sharp sand; repeat the tar and sand next year, then about once in three years. I have buildings wind and

and the light with which it is to be compared—say a candle—is placed on the other side; then the lights are moved along the scale until the spot looks equally light or dark on both sides of the disk. The illuminating powers of the lights will then be in the ratio of the squares of the respective distances of the lights from the disks. Thus, if the illuminating power of the candle be considered the unit, and it is found that when it is at two feet from the disk and the gas-burner is at four feet the spot is equally illuminated, the light of the gas will be to the light of the candle as four is to sixteen—that is to say, the gas-burner is of four-candle power.

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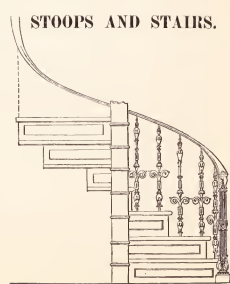
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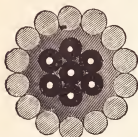


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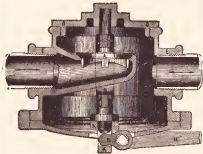
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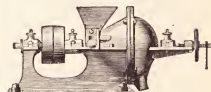
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